Information on Pilgrimage in India

500. DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been taken any initiative for disseminating necessary information to the huge number of pilgrims visiting well-known centres of pilgrimage in India regarding the conditions of the places and the required arrangements/preparations to be made for the pilgrims for undertaking the journey;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) Disseminating information relating to travel to pilgrim centres in India, the conditions of the places, required arrangements/preparations to be made by the pilgrims for undertaking the journey, etc. is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India, produces general information brochures on places of tourist interest including pilgrim centres from time to time. These brochures are distributed through the Government of India Tourist Offices located in India and abroad.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is nothing in the House, then how can there be a point of order? ...*(Interruptions)*... You are raising only a point of disorder.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The hon Member has recently been elected to the Rajya Sabha ...*(Interruptions)*... As far as I am aware, he has not taken his oath. How is he particpating in the proceedings of the House? ...*(Interruptions)*... Madam, I would like to know whether it is in order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I was discussing with him. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has got all the formalities done. The Secretariat is taking care of it. ...*(Interruptions)*... He wil take oath after some time.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: No Member can participate in this House without taking oath ...*(Interruptions)*... How is he participating? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Who is participating? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: He is now a Member of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*... As a Minister, it is all right; but, now he is a Member of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*... After he has become a Member of this House, the position is different. I would like to know whether he can participate in this House without taking oath. ...*(Interruptions)*... Is it in order, Madam?

AN HON. MEMBER: As a Minister, he can participate.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: No, no. The position has changed now. ...*(Interruptions)*... As a Minister, the position was different. ...*(Interruptions)*.. I want your ruling, Madam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is replying as a Minister. All those Members who have not taken oath and who have been elected; who are belonging to this House have complied with all the prerequisites. They will be taking oath as soon as possible. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Now I can go ahead. ...*(Interruptions)*...

RESIGNATION BY MEMBERS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that hon. Chairman had received letters from Shri V.P. Duraisamy, representing the State of Tamil Nadu, Miss Mayawati, representing the State of Uttar Pradesh and Shri Kanaksinh Mohansinh Mangrola, representing the State of Gujarat,